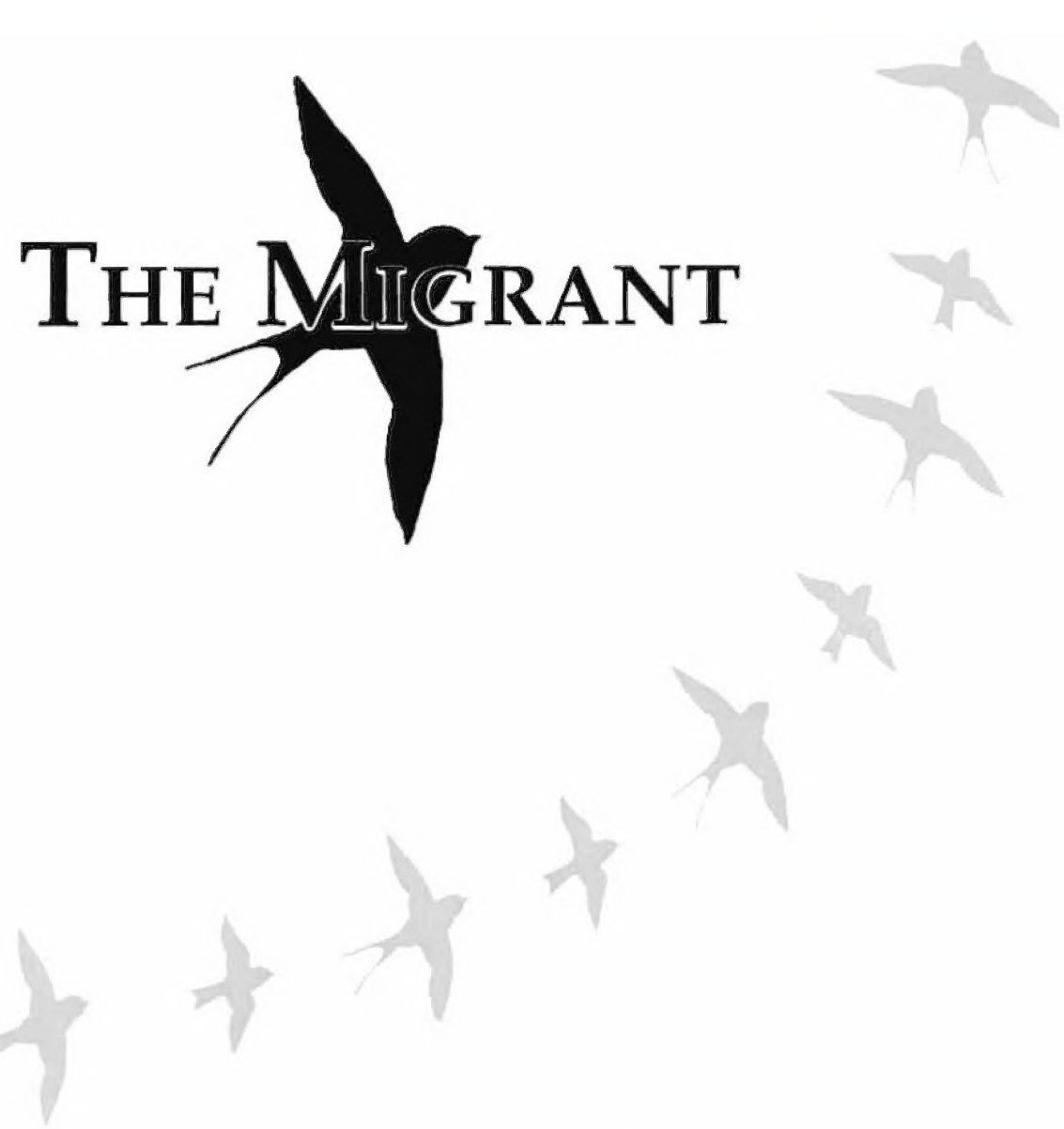

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DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL BREEDING AND BREEDING-SEASON RECORDS OF THE LARK SPARROW IN TENNESSEE

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The Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) is now a rare and local breeder in Tennessee, including the limestone cedar glade region of the Central Basin in Middle Tennessee where it is most numerous (McNair 1997). Detailed information on the distribution and abundance of breeding Lark Sparrows during the Tennessee atlas project (1986-1991) was interpreted within the context of their historical status (pre-1986) in the state (McNair 1997). The accompanying presentation of historical breeding and breeding-season information was brief; counties with historical confirmed breeding records were designated on the atlas map if Lark Sparrows had not occurred there during the atlas period. Subsequent to the completion of the Tennessee atlas project, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (1994) upgraded the Lark Sparrow to a threatened species. Because of its new legal status in Tennessee, I believe it is especially useful to present the scattered historical breeding and breeding-season information on Lark Sparrows in Tennessee in more detail. I emphasize nest records, and supplement these data with ancillary habitat information.

METHODS

I obtained historical breeding and breeding-season records of Lark Sparrows from the literature, and from unpublished material from museum collections, the Cornell nest record card (CNRC) program, Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data, Tennessee Natural Heritage Program (TNHP) files, and field notes of several individuals. I present these data by physiographic province within each of the three broad geographic divisions in Tennessee. I begin with Middle Tennessee because this is the stronghold for Lark Sparrows in the state, then turn to West and East Tennessee. Lark Sparrows may arrive on breeding territories as early as mid-April (Todd 1935a, Robinson 1990), but they also may be a spring transient through early to mid May. I have not listed possible breeding records of Lark Sparrows from mid-April to mid-

May unless details of breeding behavior are available. This criteria may reduce the number of possible breeding sites, although most reports eliminated during this period were of single birds only seen on one day. I also eliminated all reports of Lark Sparrows after late July.

Breeding records refer to evidence wherein nesting was confirmed; breeding-season records refer to observations that occurred from mid-May through late July without confirmation of nesting.

RESULTS

Middle Tennessee

In Middle Tennessee, Lark Sparrows have been confirmed breeding in Davidson, Lawrence, Rutherford, Warren, and Wilson counties, and observed during the breeding season in Cannon, Clay, Coffee, Macon, and Sumner counties.

In the Central Basin, the first record of a breeding pair (male collected, Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia 34442) occurred on 21 May 1895 at Bellevue, Davidson County (Rhoads 1895). Also in Davidson County at Nashville, W. Palmer collected another breeding pair on 11 May 1897 (United States National Museum 159481-159482). A.F. Ganier confirmed breeding Lark Sparrows at three of five localities in Davidson and Wilson counties from 1919-1933, although he collected birds at Nashville as early as 1916 (Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science 77316-77317). Ganier also collected a bird from a small flock of Lark Sparrows near Hendersonville, which is in Sumner County (where he did not confirm breeding), although I have been unable to locate this specimen. The maximum number of Lark Sparrows recorded at any of these localities was two, possibly three pairs. Ganier (1932) first confirmed breeding in 1919, near Nashville, Davidson County, where he found an adult feeding one fledgling on 21 June. He did not find his first active Lark Sparrow nest until 4 June 1933 at Central Pike near Gladeville in adjacent Wilson County (*Migrant* 4:22). This nest was destroyed when the field was plowed. Ganier also confirmed breeding along Stewart's Ferry Pike near Gladeville in 1927, where three birds were later seen (and one collected) on 20-21 June 1943 (*Migrant* 14:39; LSU MNS 77318). In 1955, Ogden (1955) discovered 12 birds (probably two families) at yet another locality near Gladeville. Near Lebanon, Wilson County, Merritt (1956, 1957) documented breeding birds at two sites, including a nest and four eggs in a rocky pasture on 20 May 1956; the young fledged 8 June.

The first of at least 30 Lark Sparrow nests discovered by H.O. Todd, Jr., from 1927-1955 was also in the glades region of neighboring Rutherford County in the Murfreesboro area (egg set data; Crook 1935, Todd 1935a,b; Todd 1944). Todd confirmed breeding at a minimum of 12 sites. Todd (1935b, 1944) located eight pairs of Lark Sparrows along Hall's Hill Pike in 1935. The maximum number at one site was four pairs in 1937 at E. Sanders farm near Compton, Todd's favorite locality for Lark Sparrows. Todd found nests in uncultivated areas of the glades, pastures, fields of cultivated crops (corn, cotton, and sorghum), and a fallow field. The most unusual nest-site was on Todd's farm, in a strawberry patch (Crook 1935); Todd also found

nests among wild potato (*Ipomoea pandurata*) and shoe string (*Campsis radicans*) vines in corn fields. In the northwest corner of Rutherford County, B. Coffey (pers. comm.) found his first Lark Sparrow near Old Jefferson on 22 May 1927. Nearby at Smyrna Army Air Base and in the vicinity, Layne (1946) discovered one or two pairs in 1946 but did not confirm breeding.

More recently, Lark Sparrows were confirmed breeding in northern Rutherford (1962-1985) and in Wilson (1975-1985) counties, especially in the vicinity of Cedars of Lebanon State Park, at the Chambers farm north of Lebanon (where first found by Merritt [1957]), in the Cainsville Pike area, and at other localities by R. McMillan (pers. comm.). The most favorable site in Wilson County is along Simmons Bluff Road where up to three pairs have been present. Nests were found in 1984-1985.

In the Eastern Highland Rim, Lark Sparrows have been confirmed breeding in Warren County. A pair abandoned a nest in tussock grass in a pasture near McMinnville in 1945; the male was collected later on 14 June (Ganier and Clebsch 1947, Robinson 1990). Many years later in Warren County, one of three adults was building a nest at Viola on 1 June 1975; by 8 June, the nest had been plowed up (*Migrant* 46:89). During this same period in adjacent Cannon County, five birds were present on 9 May 1976; in 1978, two birds were present on 21 May (*Migrant* 47:76). In nearby Coffee County, one Lark Sparrow was seen on the Glen BBS on 4 June 1973 (*Migrant* 44:85). Finally, on the Union Hill BBS, four adults were recorded near Sunrise, Macon County in June 1971, one bird each thereafter in Macon County in 1972, 1978, and 1980 (plus one more bird in 1980 in adjacent Clay County), and in 1983 only in Clay County.

In the Western Highland Rim, Lark Sparrows have been confirmed breeding in Lawrence County (near Five Points) in a cultivated corn field along a roadside with hedgerows in 1970 and 1972-1973 (Williams 1971, TNHP, CNRC, *Migrant* 43:77, *Migrant* 44:85). At least two pairs nested each year near Five Points, although the number of pairs in Lawrence County probably exceeded this total (Alsop and Williams 1974). One pair also apparently nested on the Lawrence-Giles county line in 1985 (*Migrant* 56:111).

West Tennessee

In West Tennessee, Lark Sparrows have been confirmed breeding in Decatur, Hardeman, McNairy, and Obion counties, and observed during the breeding season in Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Dyer, Fayette, Hardin, Henry, Heywood, Madison, and Shelby counties.

Rhoads (1895) discovered the first possible breeding Lark Sparrows in the Coastal Plain at Obion and Shelby counties in 1895. Documented evidence is inconclusive although the bird observed sometime from 8-14 May near Raleigh in Shelby County was a singing male. Pitts (1974) miscited the report of Coffey (1951), who has never confirmed breeding Lark Sparrows in Shelby County, although Coffey and other individuals do have some breeding-season records (B. Coffey, pers. comm.). These are: two, 15 July 1928, Memphis; two, 25 July 1934, near Woodstock; one, 31 July 1941, Memphis; two, 21 July 1963, Memphis; one, 5 June 1966, Rivermont; one, 1976,

penal farm near Germantown (M. Waldron, TNHP files) and a singing bird here on 20 May 1978. One Lark Sparrow also was seen on 15 July 1977 near Roellen, Dyer County (*Migrant* 48:102). I have not found breeding-season records of Lark Sparrows from other counties which border on the Mississippi River.

In Obion County near Troy, Pitts (1974) found a Lark Sparrow nest with three young in a clump of white clover (*Trifolium repens*) and fescue (*Festuca* spp.) in an 8-ha grazed cattle pasture on 24 May 1974. The young fledged the next day and also were seen on 5 June. A pair also had an active nest here in June 1975 (TNHP). In nearby Henry County, breeding-season birds have been reported at the following locations (B. Coffey, pers. comm.): two, near mouth of Big Sandy River, 30 June 1943 (Cottam 1944); one singing, near Paris, 13 June 1954; two, Mansfield BBS near Henry, 18 June 1966; and one, Britton Ford, 29 May 1984. These are the only breeding and breeding-season records of Lark Sparrow I have located from counties in West Tennessee which border on Kentucky.

The first confirmed breeding record of Lark Sparrows in the Coastal Plain province of Tennessee was an adult with one juvenile near Pocahontas, Hardeman County, on 17 June 1956 (B. Coffey, pers. comm.). Later, Nicholson (1980, 1984; B. Coffey, pers. comm.) confirmed breeding in nearby Decatur (1978) and McNairy (1981) counties. In McNairy County near Finger, two adults and one juvenile were present along the roadside on 24 May. The nest in Decatur County, near Bath Springs, was placed at the base of hickory (*Carya* spp.) sprouts at the edge of a pasture on top of a low hill which contained a few hardwood sprouts and large patches of bare ground. Five nestlings fledged on 27 May. Along with the pair of adults at this nest, six other adults were seen in Decatur County from 26-29 May.

Historical breeding-season records of Lark Sparrows also have occurred in eight other counties in West Tennessee, in the Loess Plain and Coastal Plain Upland regions from the 1950s to 1985. Most of these records have been provided by B. Coffey and are listed in alphabetical order by county (in parentheses) as follows: one, 27 June 1970, Sugartree (Benton); nest (details unknown), 16 June 1978, near Camden (Benton); two, 12 July 1953, near Clarksburg (Carroll); one, 20 June 1976, Sweet Lips, (Chester); one, 12 July 1959, near Gadsden (Crockett); two, 4 July 1957, near Williston (Fayette); 2-3, 22 June to 14 July 1967, near Olive Hill (*Migrant* 38:65), one, 3 July 1971 at Shiloh National Military Park, and, near Hinkle, one, 18 June 1977 and three, 16 June 1985 (Hardin); one, 29 May 1975, Hatchie NWR (Haywood); and four, 27 May 1974 (Madison).

East Tennessee

In East Tennessee, Lark Sparrows have been confirmed breeding in Jefferson and Sevier counties.

In the Ridge and Valley, Lark Sparrows nested near Kimberlin Heights, Union Valley, Sevier County in 1972 (*Migrant* 43:78-79), and apparently were present for at least the previous year. In 1972, the nest containing five young on 3 June was depredated. In Jefferson County in the late 1970s, Lark Sparrows nested near White Pine on the farm of T. Koella (*Migrant* 50:71).

DISCUSSION

The historical (pre-1986) breeding and breeding-season records of Lark Sparrow suggest this species was once locally common (Central Tennessee) to locally uncommon although probably more widespread (West Tennessee) within certain physiographic provinces in each of these two geographic divisions of Tennessee (see McNair 1997 for further discussion), rather than rare and local which is its current status. The scarcity of new breeding information since 1992 suggests that Lark Sparrows may have continued to decline in Central and West Tennessee, although a local stronghold remains the Murfreesboro area, Rutherford County (T.J. Witt, unpubl. data). Lark Sparrows always have been scarce in East Tennessee (cf., McNair 1997).

Rapid urban and suburban development in the inner Central Basin has contributed to the population decline of Lark Sparrows in the heart of its breeding range in the limestone cedar glade region (McNair 1997, this paper). This decline is consistent with the decline in the total area of farmland and other open spaces in the landscape that, coupled with reforestation practices, also has led to pronounced population declines of other breeding birds (e.g., Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*, Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*, and Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum)* that occupy open habitats in Tennessee over the last 30 years (Nicholson 1997).

McNair (1997) proposed that Lark Sparrow should be upgraded from threatened and listed as an endangered species in Tennessee. This paper presents a detailed summary of historic breeding and breeding-season records that contributed to that conclusion. Clearly, targeted surveys, in conjunction with a compilation of post-atlas (post-1991) records, should be conducted to determine the current breeding status of Lark Sparrows in the Central Basin (especially Rutherford and southern Wilson counties) and selected other areas (e.g., southern Coastal Plain Uplands region, Cannon County). A comparison of recent (post-1985) and newly collected records with the historical data presented here would provide the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency the necessary information to reexamine the legal status of this species.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank J. P. Dean (Department of Systematic Biology, Division of Birds, National Museum of Natural History), L. Joseph (Ornithology Department, Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia), and J. V. Remsen (Ornithology Department, Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University) who provided me specimen data, C.P. Nicholson (Tennessee Valley Authority) who provided me a list of Lark Sparrow egg sets and nest records that he extracted from the collections catalog of H.O. Todd Jr. (at the Cumberland Museum of Natural Science; Todd's egg set collection is now at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology), J. Lowe (Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology) who sent me nest record card data; P. B. Hamel, R. McCoy, and D. I. Withers (Tennessee Department of Conservation) who supplied me with data from

their species files; E. Folk, K. Pardieck, and B. Peterjohn (United States Geological Survey - Biological Resources Division) who sent me BBS data; and B.B. Coffey, Jr., R.V. McMillan, C.P. Nicholson, and T.J. Witt who provided me with unpublished information. I also thank C.J.E. Welsh, T.J. Witt, and an anonymous individual for their reviews of the manuscript. Reports in The Season section of The *Migrant* are not cited below.

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The Migrant, 71: (3) 79-81, 2000.

MINUTES OF THE FALL 2000 TOS MEETING

The Fall Meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) was held on 6-8 October, 2000 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In addition to the Directors' meeting, field trips were held at Craven's House (Kevin Calhoon), Brainerd Levee (Ken Dubke, Marty Paige), Williams Island (Johnny Parks, Danny Gaddy), the Tennessee Aquarium (Kevin Calhoon, Bill Haley), Soddy Mountain Hawk Watch (Bill Haley), and a trip to see Barn Owls in Dunlap, Tennessee (Bonnie Johnson). The Paper Session was held on the evening of 7 October.

The meeting of the TOS Directors was called to order by President Chris Sloan. Secretary Knox Martin reported a quorum present. Copies of the minutes of the Spring meeting were available for members to read. The president decided to postpone approval of the minutes until later in the meeting, so members could have a chance to review them.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS. West Tennessee Vice President Dick Preston was the only vice-president present. He reported that Curator Martha Waldron of the Memphis Chapter had resigned her position, and member Rob Peeples had taken over.

DIRECTORS AT LARGE. West Tennessee Director at Large Donna Ward was the only director present. She had no report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT. Secretary Knox Martin had no report.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Treasurer David Trently reported a balance in the TOS checking account of $4283.23, a balance of $7399.23 in the TOS savings account, and about $500 for the Conservation and Research Fund for 1999/May 2000.

CURATOR'S REPORT. Curator Chuck Nicholson had no report.

THE MIGRANT. The search for a new editor is still going on. The next issue should be out in a week or so. It is hoped that at least five issues can be published in the next year.

THE TENNESSEE WARBLER. President Chris Sloan reported for *Warbler* Editor Theresa Graham. October 31, 2000 is the deadline for articles for the next issue. If any chapters have material they want published, be sure Theresa has it by October 31.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE. President Chris Sloan reported on the current status of the committee. The main project is a search for a new editor of *The Migrant*. So far no single person has been found, and there was some talk of finding two or three editors to manage different areas of publications. It will be hard to find anybody to replace Dev Joslin. If you know of anybody or if you would like to volunteer to help with editing, see Ron Hoff of the Nominating Committee. The goal is to have the position filled by the spring meeting. Another project of the committee is to organize a Finance Committee to help Treasurer David Trently with the financial

responsibilities of the TOS. David has done a great job, but it may be time to try and help him with a committee. If you have any interest in serving on a finance committee, see Chris Sloan or Ron Hoff.

CONSERVATION & RESEARCH FUNDING COMMITTEE. Dev Joslin reported that the award winner for this year is Alan Trently. His proposal is titled "The Management Needs and Prescriptions For The Birds of Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area and Roan Mountain With Emphasis on Golden-winged Warblers and Alder Flycatchers." The award is for $500, and while it is from the CRFC, it will still be called the Goodpasture Award. Funds are still coming in to the Goodpasture Award from family members, so as long as funding is available the award will be called the Goodpasture Award. There was one stipulation on this award. Alan Trently is up for another job, and if he gets it he will probably not be able to do his study. In that case the award will be given to another person. Dev requested that in the future requests for proposals for the award be made earlier, so they could be studied for a longer period of time. Also it is not just for research but also for conservation related activities. More funding is available depending on the quality of the proposals.

A foray to the Hatchie River heard five singing Cerulean Warblers, and a recent survey at Royal Blue by Chuck Nicholson and the TWRA reported 341 individual Cerulean Warblers. There has been a Shorebird Management Plan drawn up for Eagle Lake WMA in Shelby County, but the implementation of this plan has been slow.

A new foundation has been set up in the Dominican Republic to support avian research and the publication of a bi-lingual field guide.

Advertisement for the grants are on the TOS website, in *The Migrant*, and also on email. It might be possible to use the websites of adjacent states.

Carolyn Bullock reported that there were still TOS decals and patches available. They will soon be available on the TOS website.

TOS WEBSITE. Chuck Nicholson reported the site was getting about 1000 hits per month. Work is still being done on the site. Much more use could be made of it if members will send in information. Some new members have come from the site.

CARA LEGISLATION. Bob Hatcher reported that CARA funding to states was now put at $50,000,000 instead of $350,000,000. The original bill had passed the House 315-102 and passed the Senate Committee 13-7. However, the House Appropriations Committee kicked it out and put up a new reduced bill that passed the House and Senate. It is now before the President. The new bill is funded for six years instead of the original 15 years. The $50,000,000 begins this year subject to appropriations from Congress. It looks like the share for Tennessee will be much less than the original $6,000,000.

NEW BUSINESS. University of Tennessee Professor David Buehler and Randy Brown of the Foothills Land Conservancy Program reported on the current effort of several groups to buy the Smith Bend Property (some 2,500 acres) in East Tennes-

see. The price is about $6,900,000. Several groups including TWRA and the Turkey Federation are working to buy this property. About $500,000 has been raised. TWRA has decided to buy the property, but every dollar raised will enable TWRA to put their dollars into other conservation projects. David Buehler put together a proposal to get TOS involved. TOS has the opportunity to buy into the management of this area as well as help TWRA. It will give more responsibility to TOS. He hopes to have TOS helping TWRA with a management plan for Smith Bend. The Knoxville Chapter donated $2000 to the project. What about the other chapters? What about the state organization? What about individual members? How about $25 per member? David turned these proposals over to Chris Sloan for consideration by the TOS Board. It will be a good idea for members to go back and tell the local chapters about the planned proposal and see how funds can be raised. Every local chapter cannot raise $2000, but each member of the local chapter could donate $25. Information could be put in *The Warbler* as well. Chris wanted to know if the state organization can donate, and if so, how much. The state organization currently has about $20,000 available in general funds that is not assigned. Should some of this amount be donated? It has to be done before April when the option on the property closes. The $20,000 is not a part of the TOS operating funds, but is extra money in various accounts. Treasurer David Trently reported that the actual amount was closer to $15,000. Most of the discussion centered on if we wanted to spend a large chunk of TOS money on Smith Bend or save it for some future conservation program. There was also some question about spending anything at all. It was decided to reconvene the Board of Directors Meeting after the evening paper session, so directors would have a chance to review all the facts. The secretary reported a total of 17 Directors and 2 Proxies present. All but one would be available for an evening meeting. Chris Sloan suggested a donation of $6,000. A motion was made to table the discussion until after the paper session. (NOTE: at the evening meeting of the TOS Directors a motion was made and seconded for TOS to donate $6,000 to the Smith Bend Project. The vote for the donation was unanimous).

The Spring Meeting will be held at Paris Landing State Park on the first weekend of May, 2001. A site for the Fall, 2001 meeting has not been found, although Pickwick Lake State Park is a possibility.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Spring 2000 meeting as amended. The motion to approve was unanimous.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Knox Martin
Recording Secretary

The Migrant, 71: (3) 82-83, 2000.

REPORT OF THE TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

KEVIN CALHOON
934 Craven's Terrace
Lookout Mountain, TN

This report describes the actions taken by the Tennessee Bird Records Committee of the Tennessee Ornithological Society from the summer of 2000 to the summer of 2001. Committee members and alternates who served during this period were Kevin Calhoon (secretary), Paul Hertzel, Audrey Hoff (alternate), Dick Preston, Chris Sloan, Rick Knight, and Mark Greene.

Acceptance criteria remained the same throughout the year. A species is placed on the confirmed list based upon either (a) extant, verified specimen, photograph, or sound recording, each accompanied by written details, or (b) satisfactory written documentation of three independent sight records, or satisfactory written documentation of three independent observers of the same bird. Without these levels of documentation a species is placed on the Provisional List based on one or two sight records with satisfactory written documentation. Acceptance to either list required unanimous or one dissenting vote of the committee.

This report contains eight records of four species accepted and four species which were not.

RECORDS ACCEPTED

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*): Written documentation of a single bird seen from Chilhowee Lake in Blount County, on 10 February 2000 was accepted. This becomes the second Tennessee record, with this species already on the confirmed list.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*): Written documentation from two observers of a single bird on Watauga Lake, Carter County, on 30 November 1999 was accepted. This becomes the second Tennessee record, with this species already on the confirmed list.

Variegated Flycatcher (*Emphidonomus varius*): Photographs and written documentation of a single bird near Reelfoot Lake, Obion County, on 13 May 1984 (Field Notes) was accepted. This becomes the first Tennessee record and was added to the confirmed list.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*): Written documentation of a single bird seen at Britton Ford WMA, Henry County, on 18 March 2000 was accepted. This species is already on the confirmed list.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*): Written documentation of a single bird seen in Shelby County, on 25 April 1998 was not accepted (3-3) because of insufficient details to determine specific species.

Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*): Written documentation of a single bird seen in Oakland, Fayette County, on 10 October 1999 was not accepted (3-3) because of insufficient details to determine specific species.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*): Written documentation of a single bird seen on Watauga Lake, Carter County, on 19 April 2000 was rejected (0-6) because of insufficient details to determine specific species.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*): Written documentation of thirty-nine birds seen over Washout Lake, Lake county, on 23 November 1999 was rejected (0-6) because of insufficient details to determine specific species.

OBSERVERS

The following observers submitted documentation and/or photographs to the committee: Theresa Graham, Margaret Mann, Howard P. Langridge, Don Manning, Wintfred L. Smith, Michael Todd, and David F. Vogt. The committee wishes to thank everyone who took time to contribute documentation.

The Migrant, 71: (3) 84-85, 2000.

BOOK REVIEW: BIRDS OF THE VIRGINIA CUMBERLANDS

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Richard H. Peake. 2001. *Birds of the Virginia Cumberlands: Annotated Checklist and Site Guide*. Privately published (available from Maple Lodge Publications, P.O. Box 28, Wise, VA 24293). 104 pp., 28 photos.

The area covered by this book encompasses three and a half counties in far southwestern Virginia that lie within the Cumberland Overthrust Block. Lee and Scott counties lie on the Tennessee border, while the others border Kentucky. Along its western edge, the area includes Cumberland Gap National Historical Park and Breaks Interstate Park. Little bird study had occurred in the Virginia Cumberlands prior to the arrival of Peake in 1968. Now retired from the University of Virginia's College at Wise, Peake has compiled his own records and synthesized the observations of others into this worthy publication. This book should appeal to Tennessee birders, especially those interested in the upper Cumberland Mountain/Ridge and Valley area.

Attractively produced, the format is similar to that of other regional avifaunal works. A forward and introduction provide much background information. Short sections on the ornithological history, geology, and flora of the region are quite helpful. As would be expected, species accounts make up the bulk of the book. An added feature is a site guide presenting brief descriptions of 22 birding locations in the region. About half of these are shown on an overview map. The book concludes with a short listing of literature citations and a handy index. A bio and photo of the author are found on the back cover. Scattered throughout the book are photographs of sites and birds, although there is no indication that the bird photos were taken within the region.

The book's Annotated Checklist contains accounts for 255 species known from the region. Following this is a secondary list of eight hypothetical species, plus the two *Vermivora* hybrid warblers. The accounts consist of sections describing status, extreme dates, breeding (where applicable), and peak numbers. The text rambles a bit at times, but it is relatively free of typographical errors. I found the numerous location abbreviations to be rather distracting, but these would provide details to those looking for specific information.

Much useful data and many interesting tidbits can be gleaned from the species accounts. The following caught my eye. With no large lakes, the variety and numbers of waterbirds in the region are not great. Despite this, such diverse species as Red-throated Loon, Snowy Egret, Surf Scoter, and Black Tern have been observed on rare instances. Tree-nesting Common Ravens have been reported from near Coeburn, whereas ravens are only known to use cliff nests in Tennessee. Peake pro-

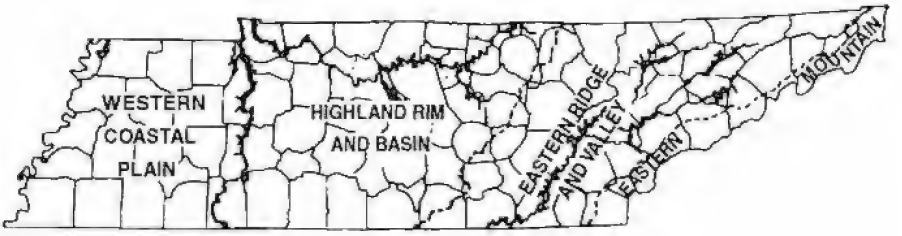
vides an interesting discussion on winter range overlap and possible hybridization between Carolina and Black-capped Chickadees. The endangered Bewick's Wren nested as recently as 1989, the last known nest in Virginia. The area boasts 24 species of breeding warblers, including the following of regional interest: Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Cerulean, and Swainson's. Rare migrants or visitors have included Western Kingbird and Kirtland's Warbler (twice, audio taped once!). However, I would question the two recent sightings of Bicknell's Thrush, as sight-only identifications of this recently split form are equivocal.

Peake has provided a valuable contribution to the understanding of birdlife in a heretofore little-known area. This work represents the fourth regional annotated checklist produced by the Bristol Bird Club, all since 1994. Kudos to both parties.

The Migrant, 71: (3) 86-96, 2000.

THE SEASON

RICHARD L. KNIGHT, Editor



SPRING: 1 MARCH - 31 MAY 2000

Across the breadth of Tennessee, the weather this spring ranged from mild to normal, while both localized flooding and near-drought conditions were reported. The overall perception of spring migration was that it, too, had been near normal. However, the excellent shorebird flight seemed to overshadow the other groups. Besides the arrival of the expected migrants, several rarities popped up. Notable in this regard were Prairie Falcon in the Western Coastal Plain, Red-throated Loon in the Central Basin, White-winged Crossbill in the Ridge & Valley, and Whimbrel in the Eastern Mountains. A wealth of information follows in the regional reports.

Standard Abbreviations

ad - adult
Co - County
Cr - Creek
ers - earliest reported sighting
et al. - and others
fide -reported by
im - immature
L - Lake
lrs - latest reported sighting
m.ob. - many observers
max -maximum count
Mtn -Mountain
NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
R - River
SP - State Park
WMA - Wildlife Management Area
yg - young

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION — The pleasant spring weather filtered in to West Tennessee on the heels of a mild winter. With this came no acute changes in migrant arrivals. The anticipated wave of warblers came in more like a gentle tide with no noticeable swelling of number and variety. Unusual were two Prairie Falcons in Shelby County and a first record of nesting Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in Lake County. A Sandhill Crane wandered over on National Migration Day. Several American Bitterns were reported, perhaps in response to available habitat. With the success of the eagle hacking project at Reelfoot Lake in the 1980s, two pairs of Bald Eagles have moved down river to nest in Shelby County. One nest had a confirmed chick, but both nests were being monitored closely.

Grebe - Falcon: **Eared Grebe:** 26 Mar (4) Shelby Farms (David Young). **Double-crested Cormorant:** 22 Mar (24) Hatchie NWR (CHB, CaD, VBR, BHW); 28 Mar - 7 Apr (301 max) Shelby Forest SP (CHB, WRP, Linda Zempel); 13 May (88) Lake Co (MAG, m.ob.). **American White Pelican:** 27 May (21) Everett L., Dyer Co (Hap Chambers, JRW). **Anhinga:** 28 May (1/1) Great River Rd./Earnest Rice Field, Dyer Co (MAG, JRW); 29 May (1) Sunk L. Natural Area, Lauderdale Co (MAG). **American Bittern:** 12 Mar (1) Hatchie NWR (VBR); 24 Mar (1) Whites Lake WMA (CaD); 8 Apr (1) EARTH Complex (CHB, VBR, MGW); 9 Apr (1) Lauderdale Co (MTOS); 22 Apr (2) Wolf R., Benton Co, Mississippi (Larry Wilson). **Least Bittern:** 13 May (1) Reelfoot L., Obion Co (PaB, MAG, JRW). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 14 Apr (3) Whites Lake WMA (CaD). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 21 May (1 ad, 3 im) Hatchie NWR (SNM, MGW). **Mute Swan:** 27 Mar (2) Shelby Farms (VBR). **Greater White-fronted Goose:** 8 Apr (1) EARTH Complex (CHB, VBR, MGW), late Shelby Co date. **Ross's Goose:** 1 Mar (3) Shelby Farms (JuD). **Greater Scaup:** 8 Apr (1) EARTH Complex (CHB, VBR, MGW), late Shelby Co date. **Osprey:** 18 Mar (1) Hatchie NWR (CaD, VBR); 25 Mar (1) Jackson (Joyce Harsson). **Bald Eagle:** 8 Apr/13 May (1 ad on nest/1 yg in nest) Memphis (Knox Martin); 30 Apr (ad on nest) nw Shelby Co (Rick Bryan). **Cooper's Hawk:** 25 Feb thru period (nest, 2 ad with yg) e Memphis (SNM, N.P. McWhirter), third confirmed nest in West Tenn.; 24 Mar (1) Shelby Farms (VBR); 19 Apr (1) Eagle Lake WMA (WRP). **Broad-winged Hawk:** 7 Mar (1) Shelby Farms (VBR), ers. **PRAIRIE FALCON:** 4 Apr (1) n Memphis (VBR); 29 Apr (1) Shelby Farms (CHB, Robert Ilardi, Gerald Papachristou, MGW, class from Univ. of Memphis); first spring records, if indeed separate birds. **Peregrine Falcon:** 30 Apr (1) EARTH Complex (CHB, Jason & Paul Nolan); 13 May (1) Hwy 79W, Lake Co (PaB, MAG).

Rail - Dowitcher: **King Rail:** 13/20 May (4/12) Black Bayou WMA (PaB, WGC, JRW). **Virginia Rail:** 12 May (1) Black Slough, Lake Co (MAG). **Sora:** 12 Mar (1) Shelby Farms (JuD), early West Tenn.; 12 May (1) Lake Co (MAG, m.ob.). **Sandhill Crane:** 1 Mar (1007) Hop-In WMA, Obion Co (Ralph Gray); 13 May (1) Shelby Forest SP (CHB, BHW, David Baylock, Jane Hatfield). **Black-necked Stilt:** 1 Mar (2) Shelby Farms (CHB, VBR); 28 Mar/23 Apr (8 max) Eagle Lake WMA (JuD, WRP); 8 Apr (10) EARTH Complex (CHB, VBR, MGW); 14 Apr (2) Whites Lake WMA (CaD); 13 May (2) Black Bayou WMA (PaB, MAG, JRW); 19 May (3) Mud L., Lake Co (MCT). **Greater Yellowlegs:** 24 Mar/14 Apr (46) Whites Lake WMA (CaD), max. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** 3 Mar/30 Apr (140 max) EARTH Complex (CHB, VBR, MGW); 24 Mar/14 Apr (97 max) Whites Lake WMA (CaD); 28 Mar (60) Eagle Lake WMA (WRP). **Willet:** 28 Apr (30) Shelby Farms (WRP); 13 May (1) Phillipy (MAG). **Ruddy Turnstone:** 13/27 May (2/8) Tiptonville Bar, Lake Co (MAG, m.ob.). **Sanderling:** 13 May (7/1) Tiptonville Bar, Lake Co/Phillipy (MAG, m.ob.). **Least Sandpiper:** 8/30 Apr (687 max) EARTH Complex (CHB, VBR, MGW). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** 17 May (16) Whites Lake WMA (CaD). **Pectoral Sandpiper:** 24 Mar/14 Apr (158 max) Whites Lake WMA (CaD); 8/30 Apr (511 max) EARTH Complex (CHB, VBR, MGW). **Dowitcher sp:** 10 Mar (1) Shelby Farms (VBR); 14 Apr (2) Whites Lake WMA (CaD); 30 Apr (7) EARTH Complex (CHB, VBR, MGW).

Gull - Nighthawk: **Laughing Gull:** 21 May (1) Lake Co (JRW). **Bonaparte's Gull:** 12 Apr (4) Shelby Forest SP (WRP). **Caspian Tern:** 15 Apr (1) Hatchie NWR (CHB); 13/27 May (5/1) Lake Co (MAG, m.ob.). **Common Tern:** 11 May (1) Ed Davis Fish Farm, Gibson Co (MAG); 12/28 May (8 max) Lake Co (MAG). **Forster's Tern:** 16 Apr (2) Decatur Co (CHB); 11/29 May (33 max) Lake Co (MAG). **Eurasian Collared-Dove:** 13 May (4) Tiptonville, Lake Co (MAG, m.ob.). **Black-billed Cuckoo:** 13/15 May (2) Lake Co (PaB, WGC, MAG, MCT, JRW). **Great Horned Owl:** 27 Mar (on nest) Shelby Farms (CHB, VBR). **Common Nighthawk:** 1/14 May (1-3) Memphis (Martha Heinemann).

Flycatcher - Finch: **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 13 May (2) Levee Rd., Lake Co (PaB, MAG, JRW). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 19 May (1) Levee Rd., Lake Co (MCT); 21 May (1) Tennemo Levee, Dyer Co (Judy Newsome, JRW). **Alder Flycatcher:** 13 May (2) Hwy 79W (PaB, MAG, JRW). **Willow Flycatcher:** 13 May (4) Hwy 79W (PaB, MAG, JRW); 29 May (1) Bee L., Lauderdale Co (MAG). **Least Flycatcher:** 13 May (1) Levee Rd., Lake Co (Don Manning, MCT). **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** 8 Apr (1) e Memphis (John Whorley fide Dick Preston); 29 May (pair/nest) west of Phillipy (Ken & Betty Leggett, Nancy Moore/WGC); 29 May (1) south of Phillipy (WGC). **Fish Crow:** 22 Mar (8) Hatchie NWR (CHB, CaD, VBR, BHW); 24 Mar (1) midtown Memphis (Martha Heinemann). **Northern Mockingbird:** 4 Apr (1 ad, 1 fledgling) Univ. of Memphis campus (VBR), early nesting. **Cape May Warbler:** 13 May (1) Hwy 79W (MAG). **Connecticut Warbler:** 13 May (1) Levee Rd., Lake Co (Ken Leggett, MCT). **Mourning Warbler:** 12/13 May (1/1) Black Bayou WMA/Hwy 79W (Bob Foehring, MAG). **American Tree Sparrow:** 24 Mar (3) Whites Lake WMA (CaD). **Lark Sparrow:** 13 - 15 May (2 max, gathering nest material on 14 May) Hwy 79W (PaB, MAG, MCT, JRW); 23 May (2) s Henry Co (Don Manning). **Purple Finch:** 28 Mar (1 m) Shelby Forest SP (WRP).

Locations: Black Bayou WMA - in Lake Co; Eagle Lake WMA - in Shelby Co; EARTH Complex - in Shelby Co; Hatchie NWR - in Haywood Co; Hwy 79W - in Lake Co; Phillipy - in Lake Co; Shelby Farms/Shelby Forest SP - in Shelby Co; Whites Lake WMA - in Dyer Co.

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HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION -- In Nashville, temperatures were within 3 degrees of normal for each of the three months. Rainfall in March was slightly below normal while that for April was over 40% above average. In May the monthly rainfall was equaled during a three day span, causing flooding in portions of the Nashville area. The month ended with a rainfall total of 7.66 inches, over 50% above normal. Migration was more or less normal, although there were several record early dates for warblers in the region. Highlights included Scissor-tailed Flycatchers returning to nest in Williamson County for the second year, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-throated Loon, and Mississippi Kite. Also, Double-crested Cormorants were a surprise nesting species in Nashville, as was the first nest record for Great Egret.

Loon - Ducks: **Red-throated Loon:** 2 May (1) Pennington Bend (MLM), less than 10 middle Tenn. records. **Common Loon:** 10 May (1) Radnor L (PDC, FCF). **Double-crested Cormorant:** 13 May (several nesting) Old Hickory L (CAS), first nested at this site in 1997. **American Bittern:** 26 Mar (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC); 28 Mar (1) Dyson's Ditch, Cheatham Co (GBC). **Great Egret:** 13 May (pair nesting) Old Hickory L (CAS), first Nashville nesting record. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 22 Mar (4) Davidson Co (Galen Lenhart). **Wood Duck:** 12 Mar (500+) Dyson's Ditch, Cheatham Co (JSD). **Hooded Merganser:** 18 Mar (3) Warren Co (SNM). **Red-breasted Merganser:** 19 Apr (1) Radnor L (NTOS).

Osprey - Hummingbird: **Osprey:** 4 Apr (1) Maury Co (Thomas Edwards); 25 Apr/4 May (2/1) Radnor L (Hazel Cassel/FCF). **Mississippi Kite:** 15 Mar (1) Pennington Bend (MLM), less than 12 records for middle Tenn. **Bald Eagle:** 6 Mar (1) Maury Co (George Mayfield). **Broad-winged Hawk:** 12 Apr (1) Radnor L (NTOS), ers. **Merlin:** 21 Apr (1) Bellevue (CAS). **Peregrine Falcon:** 18 Apr (1) downtown Nashville (Dennis & Sharon Monroe). **Sandhill Crane:** 5 Apr (100) Sewanee, Franklin Co (Jerry Ingles). **Semipalmated Plover:** 15 May (2) Bellevue (FCF). **American Avocet:** 28 Apr (29) Old Hickory L (Jackson Brown). **Spotted Sandpiper:** 18 May (3) Bellevue (FCF). **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 17 May (34) Bellevue (FCF), max. **Least Sandpiper:** 15 May (15) Bellevue (FCF), max. **Dunlin:** 10 May (1) Bellevue (FCF). **Short-billed Dowitcher:** 13 May (22) Cheatham Co (Joe Stone, Sabin Thompson, Jerry Drewry). **Common Snipe:** 1 Apr (27) Warren Co (SNM, MGW, Polly Rooker). **Great Black-backed Gull:** 14 Mar (1, first winter) Pennington Bend (MLM), see winter report. **Franklin's Gull:** 28 Mar (1) Pennington Bend (MLM). **Caspian Tern:** 15 Apr (2) Radnor L (FCF, Bonnie Fekel). **Forster's Tern:** 17 Mar (2) Wilson Co (MLM). **Eurasian Collared-Dove:** 30 Apr (several pairs nesting) Murfreesboro, Rutherford Co (Terry Witt). **Black-billed Cuckoo:** 3 May/12-13 May (1) Pennington Bend (MLM). **Barn Owl:** 18 Mar (1) Warren Co (SNM). **Short-eared Owl:** 12 Mar (1) Cheatham Co (JSD). **Chuck-will's-widow:** 13 May (2) Warren Co (SNM). **Chimney Swift:** 23 Mar (1) Pennington Bend (MLM), ers. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 24 Mar (1) Pennington Bend (MLM), ers.

Flycatcher - Catbird: **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 10/18 May (1) Radnor L (PDC, FCF, CPD, Susan Hollyday). **Alder Flycatcher:** 11-18 May (1) Davidson Co (RHC), rarely encountered in middle Tenn. **Eastern Kingbird:** 7 Apr (1) Pennington Bend (MLM), ers. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** 26 Apr (2) Williamson Co (Elizabeth O'Connor), nested at this site last year. **Blue-headed Vireo:** 15 Mar (1) Arnold Engineering and Development Center, Franklin Co (Melinda Welton). **Yellow-throated Vireo:** 17 Apr (1) Radnor L (PDC, DWD, CPD), ers. **Warbling Vireo:** 2 Apr (1) Pennington Bend (MLM), new early date for Nashville. **Philadelphia Vireo:** 28 Apr/22 May (1/4) Radnor L (DWD/FCF). **Red-eyed Vireo:** 10 Apr (1) Nashville (JA), ers. **Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** 13 Mar (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers. **Cliff Swallow:** 17 Apr (100+) Chapmansboro Bridge, Cheatham Co (MLM), newly discovered colony. **Bewick's Wren:** 9 Mar (1) Davidson Co (RHC). **Marsh Wren:** 26 Mar (1) Cheatham Co (JSD). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 24 May (1) Nashville (JA), lrs. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 25

Mar (1) Davidson Co (MLM), ers. **Swainson's Thrush:** 29 May (1) Radnor L (FCF), lrs. **Wood Thrush:** 10 Apr (1) Radnor L (PDC), ers. **Gray Catbird:** 12 Mar (1) Pennington Bend (MLM), quite early.

Warblers: **Blue-winged Warbler:** 3 Mar (1) Nashville (Dee Thompson), new early date for Nashville. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** 17 Apr (1) Radnor L (PDC, DWD, CPD). **Nashville Warbler:** 12 Apr (3) Radnor L (NTOS), ers. **Northern Parula:** 25 Mar (1) Montgomery Bell SP, Dickson Co (PDC, Don Davidson), ers. **Yellow Warbler:** 5 Apr (1) Basin Spring, Williamson Co (MLM, Ann Wilson Goodpasture), ers. **Magnolia Warbler:** 22 Apr (1) Radnor L (CAS), ers. **Cape May Warbler:** 2 May (5) Shelby Bottoms (PDC, GBC). **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 2 May (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC, GBC); 10 May (1) Radnor L (RHC). **Black-throated Green Warbler:** 27 Mar (2) Shelby Park (PDC), ers. **Prairie Warbler:** 6 Mar (2) Maury Co (Thomas Edwards), ers. **Palm Warbler:** 18 Mar (2) Shelby Bottoms (GBC, PDC). **Blackpoll Warbler:** 13 Apr (1) Pennington Bend (MLM), ers; 30 May (1) Nashville (John Froschauer), lrs. **Cerulean Warbler:** 15 Mar (1) Pennington Bend (MLM), new early date in Nashville area; 29 Mar (1) Warner Park, Davidson Co (Sandy Bivens), tied previous early date. **Black-and-white Warbler:** 15 Mar (1) Pennington Bend (MLM), ers. **American Redstart:** 6 Apr (1) Pennington Bend (MLM), ers. **Prothonotary Warbler:** 7 Apr (2) Radnor L (DWD), ers. **Swainson's Warbler:** 2 May (1) Pennington Bend (MLM). **Ovenbird:** 6 Mar (1) Shelby Bottoms (Mark Hackney), ers. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** 9 Mar (1) Radnor L (Sharon Monroe), ers; 10 Mar (1) Putnam Co (Stephen Stedman), new early date for Co. **Kentucky Warbler:** 15 Apr (2) Beaman Park, Davidson Co (NTOS), ers. **Connecticut Warbler:** 12/13/22 May (1) Radnor L (PDC, FCF, CAS, JKS, Kenneth Benge); 17 May (1) Williamson Co (RHC, PDC, Susan Hollyday). **Mourning Warbler:** 5 May (1 banded) Warner Park, Davidson Co (Kathy Shaw); 14/17/24/30 May (1-2) Radnor L (CAS, PDC, FCF, JKS). **Common Yellowthroat:** 5 Mar (1) Cheatham Co (Ed Byrne), ers. **Wilson's Warbler:** 2 May (1) Pennington Bend (MLM); 10 May (3) Radnor L (FCF, PDC); 29 May (1) Nashville (JA). **Canada Warbler:** 23 May (1) Radnor L (FCF), lrs.

Grosbeak - Siskin: **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 18 Mar (1) Cheatham Co (Rhonda Richards), ers. **Blue Grosbeak:** 13 May (6) Warren Co (SNM). **Indigo Bunting:** 14 Mar (1) Radnor L (MLM), ers. **Vesper Sparrow:** 26 Mar (4) Cheatham Co (JSD); 1 Apr (2) Warren Co (SNM, MGW, Polly Rooker). **Grasshopper Sparrow:** 16 Apr/13 May (1/8) Warren Co (SNM). **Lincoln's Sparrow:** 2 May (13+) Shelby Bottoms (PDC, GBC). **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 15 May (1 f) Radnor L (JKS). **Orchard Oriole:** 12 Apr (1) Radnor L (NTOS), ers. **Purple Finch:** 26 Mar (2) Cheatham Co (JSD); 1 Apr (1) Warren Co (SNM). **Pine Siskin:** 24 Mar (1) Sewanee, Franklin Co (Jim Peters); 9 May (1) Davidson Co (Ed Gleaves).

Locations: Bellevue - in Davidson Co; Old Hickory L - in Davidson & Sumner Cos; Pennington Bend - in Davidson Co; Radnor L - in Davidson Co; Shelby Park/Bottoms - in Davidson Co.

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CUMBERLAND PLATEAU/RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION — Following a mild winter, temperatures continued rather mild into spring. Rainfall in most areas was below normal. Dry wetland conditions in the Chattanooga area resulted in fewer shorebirds and marsh birds at some favorite sites. However, other areas hosted good numbers of wading birds and shorebirds. Several early arrival dates were set by some migrants.

Overall, a good variety of species were found. Most regular migrants seemed to be in average numbers. Four reports each of American Bittern and Snowy Egret were more than usual, as were three sightings of Laughing Gull. Breeding reports for Osprey, Bald Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon were welcome news. After nesting on a railroad bridge for the last three years, the Chattanooga peregrines apparently moved to a natural site nearby. Unusual shorebirds included Whimbrel and Ruddy Turnstone.

Among passerines, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Connecticut and Mourning warblers appeared in above average numbers. A Fish Crow was unexpected, but not unprecedented. Red Crossbill and, especially, White-winged Crossbill sightings were rare regional treats. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins lingered in several areas.

Loon - Ibis: **Common Loon:** 11 Apr (70 flying N) Soddy Mtn, Hamilton Co (Bill Haley); 19 Apr (30) Norris L (Tim Pruitt). **Double-crested Cormorant:** 10 Apr (50+) Rankin Bottoms (KDE); 19 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM). **American Bittern:** 23 Mar (1) Amnicola Marsh, Hamilton Co (KAC); 2-28 Apr (1-4) Brainerd Levee (KAC); 22 Apr (1) Lick Cr. Bottoms WMA, Greene Co (DHM); 13 May (1) Kyker WMA, Blount Co (Jean Alexander, David Johnson). **Least Bittern:** 13 May (1) Brainerd Levee (KAC), only report there; 27-29 May (1-2) Rankin Bottoms (Michael Sledjeski, Leslie Gibbens). **Great Egret:** 2-9 Apr (1-7) Brainerd Levee (DP, Barbara McMahan); 5 Apr (1) Cove Lake SP (NM); 19 Apr - 9 May (1-5) Greene Co (DHM, ACL); 27-29 Apr (2) Jefferson Co (KDE); 21 May (1) Meigs Co (Ken Dubke). **Snowy Egret:** 17 Apr (1) Austin Springs (HPL); 24 Apr (1) Cove Lake SP (NM); 15 May (1) Kinser Park, Greene Co (DHM); 21 May (2) Hamilton Co (Harold Sharp). **Cattle Egret:** 7 Apr (1) Brainerd Levee (DP); 20 May (1) near Kingston, Roane Co (KDE, DJT, AW). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 27 Apr (100+) Cherokee Dam, Grainger/Jefferson Cos. (KDE). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 30 Apr (1) Knoxville (Boyd Sharp); 4 -29 May (1-4) Brainerd Levee (DP, KAC). **Glossy Ibis:** 29 Apr (1) Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, Anderson Co (Charles Nicholson et al.).

Teal - Crane: **Blue-winged Teal:** 10 Apr (500+) Rankin Bottoms (KDE), max. **Northern Shoveler:** 18 May (2) Kingston Steam Plant (FLB), lrs. **Redhead:** 11 Mar (35) Cove Lake SP (NM). **Greater Scaup:** 23 Apr (1) Cove Lake SP (NM). **Red-breasted Merganser:** 11 Mar (17) Cove Lake SP (NM). **Osprey:** 10 Mar (6 nests) Watts Bar L., Rhea/Meigs/Roane Cos (Wes James); 10 Apr (2 nests) Rankin Bottoms (KDE); 22 Apr (1 on nest) Looney Is., Knox Co (KDE, DJT et al.). **Bald Eagle:** 16 Mar (first nestling seen) Nickajack L., Marion Co (fide KAC); 21 Apr (1 ad, 1 yg in nest) Tellico L., Monroe Co (Wes James, Hill Henry); a nest on Hiwassee Is., Meigs Co, held 2 yg (Ken

Dubke); 22 Apr (1 ad) Freel's Bend (JDJ, Jim Evans, Tom Thomas). **Broad-winged Hawk:** 11 Apr (35) Soddy Mtn, Hamilton Co (Bill Haley), max. **Merlin:** 14 Apr/1 May (1) Craven's House (KAC). **Peregrine Falcon:** 2 were seen a few times near the recent nest site at Chickamauga Dam and were seen carrying food away from that area going north (Harold Sharp et al.), then on 24 May a nest site with 2 yg was found near Falling Water Falls, Hamilton Co (Dale Liner), about 6 miles to the north; apparently the same pair. **Sora:** 14 Apr - 4 May (1-6) Brainerd Levee (KAC et al.); 19 Apr - 11 May (1-2 at 2 sites) Greene Co (DHM et al.); 7/10 May (1) Kingston Steam Plant (KDE, MAG, JRW/FLB). **Common Moorhen:** 11-15 May (1) Kingston Steam Plant (FLB, JDJ). **Sandhill Crane:** 19 Apr (2) Hiwassee Refuge, Meigs Co (Doug Geren), lrs.

Shorebirds: **Black-bellied Plover:** 18 May (4) Kingston Steam Plant (FLB). **Semipalmated Plover:** 7 May (19) Kingston Steam Plant (KDE, MAG, JRW); 13 May (17) Brainerd Levee (KAC); max. **Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs:** 10 Apr (30+ each) Rankin Bottoms (KDE), max. **Willet:** 10 May (1) Kingston Steam Plant (FLB). **Whimbrel:** 9 May (2) Kingston Steam Plant (FLB). **Ruddy Turnstone:** 13 May (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 20 May (65) Kingston Steam Plant (KDE, MAG, JRW), max. **Western Sandpiper:** 30 Apr (1) U.T. Plant Science Farm, Knox Co (Jean Alexander, David Johnson); 7 May (1) Kingston Steam Plant (KDE, MAG, JRW). **Least Sandpiper:** 15 May (50+) Kingston Steam Plant (FLB), max. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** 15 May (4) Kingston Steam Plant (FLB); 29-30 May (1-3) Brainerd Levee (KAC et al.). **Baird's Sandpiper:** 30 Apr (1) Kingston Steam Plant (FLB). **Dunlin:** 21 Mar (1) Austin Springs (HPL et al.); 15 Apr (1) New Market, Jefferson Co (KDE); 17 Apr (1) Brainerd Levee (KAC); 19 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM); 10-13 May (1) Kingston Steam Plant (FLB, JDJ). **Stilt Sandpiper:** 23 Mar (1) Austin Springs (HPL, AW), record early in region; 7 Apr (1) Brainerd Levee (LAW, KAC, CDB); 10 May (4) Kingston Steam Plant (FLB). **Short-billed Dowitcher:** 17 Apr - 13 May (1-3) Brainerd Levee (KAC); 9-14 May (112 max) Greene Co (DHM, ACL), very high number for region; 10/13 May (3/12) Kingston Steam Plant (FLB/JDJ). **Common Snipe:** 1 Mar (42) Greene Co (DHM), max. **American Woodcock:** 9 Apr (1 ad, 4 yg) Oak Ridge Reservation (Jim Evans, John Perryman fide JDJ); 5 May (1 on nest) Cross Mtn, Campbell Co (Bob Collier, Boyd Sharp, Tony Headrick, NM); 21 May (2 ad, 1 yg) Greene Co (DHM). **Wilson's Phalarope:** 9 Apr (1) Brainerd Levee (Barbara & Mike McMahan), record early in region, if not in the state; 15 May (2) Kingston Steam Plant (FLB).

Gull - Woodpecker: **Laughing Gull:** 9 May (3 ad) Chickamauga L (KAC); 11 May (2) Kingston Steam Plant (FLB); 17 May (1 ad, 1 im) Nickajack L, Marion Co (KAC); unusual number in region. **Caspian Tern:** 25 Apr (15) Kingsport (HPL, Buddy Hollis); 5-16 May (2-15) Kingston Steam Plant (FLB et al.). **Forster's Tern:** 8 Apr (2) Chickamauga L (KAC); 10 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Eurasian Collared-Dove:** 23 Mar (pair, copulation observed) Chattanooga (CDB), first evidence of breeding in region. **Barn Owl:** 10-23 Apr (1-2) Jefferson Co (KDE, Amber Hensley). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 3 Apr (2) Knoxville (fide J.B. Owen), ers. **Rufous Hummingbird:** 12 Mar (1) Signal Mtn, Hamilton Co (Jonnie Sue Lyons), lrs for banded bird. **Red-headed**

Woodpecker: 29 Apr (2) Norris Dam SP, Anderson Co (Charles Nicholson et al.); reported at 4 sites in Greene Co (DHM, ACL).

Flycatcher - Waxwing: **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 26 Apr (1) Cove Lake SP (NM); 9 May (2) Charleston, Bradley Co (Dennis & Gwen Harris); 13/20/23 May (1) Craven's House (KAC); 21 May (1) Flattop Mtn, Bledsoe Co (RDS). **Willow Flycatcher:** 22 Apr (2) Freel's Bend (JDJ, Jim Evans, Tom Thomas); 9-31 May (1-3) Cove Lake SP (NM); 10-18 May (1) Kingston Steam Plant (FLB); 26 May (1) w Knoxville (DJT). **Least Flycatcher:** 24 Apr (1) Cove Lake SP (NM). **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** 7 May (1 male) Charleston, Bradley Co (RDS), seen sporadically thereafter, 4th consecutive year at site. **Warbling Vireo:** 22 Apr thru May (1-4) Greene Co (DHM, ACL); 13 May (1) Cove Lake SP (NM). **FISH CROW:** 5 Mar (1) Booker T. Washington SP, Hamilton Co (Dan Mooney, Stephen Johnson), second Co & regional record. **Tree Swallow:** 23 May (10 nests/22 nests) Melton Hill Dam/Fort Loudoun & Tellico dams, Loudon Co (Wes James). **Bank Swallow:** 30 Apr (50) Mascot, Knox Co (KDE), at traditional colony. **Cliff Swallow:** 31 Mar (1) Austin Springs (HPL), record early in NE Tenn. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 9 Apr (30) Sharp's Ridge, Knoxville (Dan & Laurie Mooney), max; 30 Apr (1) Craven's House (KAC et al.), lrs. **Brown-headed Nuthatch:** 7/13 May (3) Kingston Steam Plant (KDE, JDJ et al.). **House Wren:** 31 Mar (1) Greeneville (DHM), ers. **Marsh Wren:** 28 Apr (4) Brainerd Levee (KAC, Bonnie Johnson); 7 May (2) Kingston Steam Plant (KDE, MAG, JRW). **Eastern Bluebird:** many reports of early nests in March with eggs or young in Knoxville area (fide J.B. Owen). **Swainson's Thrush:** 1 Apr (1) Freel's Bend (Roger & Christine Tankersley et al.), ers. **Cedar Waxwing:** 5 Apr (500+) Tusculum College, Greene Co (DHM, ACL); 26 May (500+) U.T. campus, Knoxville (KDE); max; numerous reports of bigger-than-average flocks in northern half of region.

Warbler - Siskin: **Blue-winged Warbler:** 13 May (3 on territory) Oak Ridge Reservation (JDJ). **Golden-winged Warbler:** 29 Apr - 13 May (4 reports) Chattanooga area (fide KAC). **"Lawrence's" Warbler:** 13 May (1) Hamilton Co (Danny Gaddy). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** 23 Apr (1) Norris Dam SP, Anderson Co (NM); 27/30 Apr (1) Sharp's Ridge, Knoxville (KDE/Jim & Betty Reid Campbell). **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 1-13 May (3 reports) Hamilton Co (fide KAC); 13 May (1) Cross Mtn, Campbell Co (NM). **Prothonotary Warbler:** 10 Apr (1) Rankin Bottoms (KDE); 23 Apr (3) Holston R. Park, Knoxville (Dan & Laurie Mooney); 24 Apr (1) Austin Springs (Larry McDaniel); 3 May (4) Kinser Park, Greene Co (DHM); 13 May (4) Oak Ridge Reservation (JDJ). **Swainson's Warbler:** 27-30 Apr (1) White Oak Mtn, Hamilton Co (Laura Mitchell); 27 Apr thru May (1) Norris, Anderson Co (Roger Tankersley); 1 May (1) Booker T. Washington SP, Hamilton Co (LAW, Janice Chadwell); 5-31 May (1) Cove Lake SP (NM). **Connecticut Warbler:** 13-14 May (1) Craven's House (John Henderson, Dan Jacobson); 13 May (1) Knoxville (Chris Welsh). **Mourning Warbler:** 16 May (1) Craven's House (KAC, LAW et al.); 19 May (1) Knoxville (Chris Welsh); 24 May (1) Cove Lake SP (NM). **Wilson's Warbler:** 30 Apr (1) Craven's House (KAC). **Savannah Sparrow:** 30 May (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Lincoln's Sparrow:** 22 Apr (1) Sequatchie Co (CDB); 30 Apr (1) Knoxville (DJT). **Swamp Sparrow:** 13 May

(1) Greene Co (DHM), lrs. **Dickcissel:** 8 May (1) Sequatchie Co (RDS); 10-12 May (2) near Limestone, Washington Co (DHM); 13 May (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Purple Finch:** 21 Apr (1) Greeneville (DHM, ACL), lrs. **WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL:** from winter thru 15 Mar (1 im male) Signal Mtn, Hamilton Co (Maurice Edwards et al.). **Red Crossbill:** 11 Apr (1 at feeder) Knoxville (Valerie Shearn); 15 Apr (8-9) Cove Lake SP (Ron Hoff, Dollyann Myers et al.). **Pine Siskin:** 11 Apr (50+) Caryville, Campbell Co (NM); thru 23 Apr (1-4) Greeneville (DHM, ACL); thru 24 May (2+) Bledsoe Co (RDS).

Locations: Austin Springs - in Washington Co; Brainerd Levee - in Hamilton Co; Chickamauga L - in Hamilton Co; Cove Lake SP - in Campbell Co; Craven's House - a unit of the Chickamauga National Battlefield Park, Hamilton Co; Freel's Bend - in Anderson Co; Kingston Steam Plant - in Roane Co; Oak Ridge Reservation - in Roane Co; Rankin Bottoms - in Cocke Co.

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION — Several unusual shorebirds and other waterbirds occurred at South Holston Lake. Also, several shorebird abundance records were set for Shady Valley. A large colony of 375 active Cliff Swallow nests was found under a bridge in eastern Sullivan County. A Lark Sparrow was seen in Shady Valley during a field trip for the state TOS meeting. A high count of Pine Siskins was reported from Roan Mountain.

Grebe - Falcon: **Pied-billed Grebe:** 18 May (1) S. Holston L. (LCM, HPL), lrs. **Eared Grebe:** 18 Apr (1) S. Holston L. (HPL, Buddy Hollis). **Double-crested Cormorant:** 16 Apr (1) S. Holston L. (JWC, BKS, HPL). **Great Egret:** 30 Mar (19) Elizabethton (Gary Wallace et al.); 18/26 Apr (1) Shady Valley (HPL/JLS). **Snowy Egret:** 5 May (1) Watauga R., Carter Co (HPL). **Tri-colored Heron:** 2 Apr (1) Watauga R., Carter Co (John & Donna Adams), 3rd local record. **Cattle Egret:** 25 Apr (1) Carter Co (Gary Wallace). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 13 Apr (1) Sycamore Shoals SP (AW), ers. **Hooded Merganser:** 3 Apr - 21 May (1 f) Shady Valley (JLS et al.). **Common Merganser:** 19 Apr (1) Watauga L., Carter Co (HPL, Buddy Hollis). **Rough-legged Hawk:** 11/29 Mar (1) Shady Valley (JLS, JWC/HPL, AW), lrs for wintering bird. **Merlin:** 29 Mar (1) Shady Valley (HPL, AW); 31 Mar/15 Apr (1) Elizabethton (HPL). **Peregrine Falcon:** 27 May (1) Roan Mtn (Nathan Klaus); 31 May (2 ad & 3 fledged yg) Peregrine Ridge, Great Smoky Mtns. National Park (Dick Dickenson fide Bob Hatcher), the 4th year of nesting here.

Rail - Tern: **Virginia Rail:** 15 Mar (1) Fishery Park, Unicoi Co (BKS). **Sora:** 5 - 11 May (1) Quarry Bog (HPL, JLS); 10 May (1) Orchard Bog (JLS). **Semipalmated Plover:** 5 - 12 May (1) Quarry Bog (HPL, AW, JWC, JLS); 14 May (1) S. Holston L. (JWC). **Greater Yellowlegs:** 23 Apr/5 May (8/2) Quarry Bog (JWC, LCM/HPL, AW), record high for Shady Valley. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** 23 Apr (26) Quarry Bog (JWC, LCM), record high for Shady Valley. **Solitary Sandpiper:** 23 Apr/5 May (25/10) Quarry Bog (JWC,

LCM/HPL, AW), record high for Shady Valley. **Willet:** 15 May (4) S. Holston L (HPL, BKS). **Whimbrel:** 25 May (10) S. Holston L (JWC, HPL), 5th record & largest number in NE Tenn. **Ruddy Turnstone:** 13 May (3) S. Holston L (HPL, JWC), 2nd spring record in NE Tenn. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 12 May (10) Quarry Bog (JLS), max. **Western Sandpiper:** 9 - 10 May (1) Quarry Bog (JLS). **Least Sandpiper:** 23 Apr - 12 May (1 - 20) Quarry Bog (JWC, LCM, JLS, HPL, AW). **Pectoral Sandpiper:** 23 Apr (1) Quarry Bog (JWC, LCM), 1st record for Shady Valley. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** 14 - 15 May (3) S. Holston L (JWC, HPL), calling. **Common Snipe:** 26 Mar (126) Quarry Bog (JWC, BKS), new high count in NE Tenn. **Laughing Gull:** 16 Apr (2) S. Holston L (JWC, BKS, HPL), earliest spring record in NE Tenn. **Bonaparte's Gull:** 16 Apr (30) S. Holston L (JWC, BKS, HPL). **Common Tern:** 16 Apr (1) S. Holston L (JWC, BKS, HPL), early. **Forster's Tern:** 15 May (6) S. Holston L (HPL, BKS). **Black Tern:** 21 May (2) S. Holston L (JWC, LCM, AWJ).

Cuckoo - Gnatcatcher: **Black-billed Cuckoo:** 2 May (1) Sycamore Shoals SP (AW); 21 May (1) Hickory Tree, Sullivan Co (JWC, LCM, AWJ). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** 21 May (2) Holston Valley, Sullivan Co (JWC, LCM, AWJ). **Willow Flycatcher:** 27 May (2) Hampton Cr. Cove (AJT, AW, Nathan Klaus). **Least Flycatcher:** 27/29 May (1 nest, 10 territories/6 nests, 11 territories) Hampton Cr. Cove/Roan Mtn (AJT, AW, Nathan Klaus). **Philadelphia Vireo:** 2 May (1) Sycamore Shoals SP (HPL, LCM, AW). **Common Raven:** at least 4 nest sites active in early Mar in Carter & Unicoi Cos. (AJT). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** 14 Mar (2) Fishery Park, Unicoi Co (BKS), ers. **Cliff Swallow:** 13 May (375 active nests) Emmet bridge, S. Holston R., Sullivan Co (JWC). **Sedge Wren:** 9 - 12 May (1) Quarry Bog (JLS, HPL); 10 May (1) Orchard Bog (JLS). **Marsh Wren:** 11/18 May (1-3) Quarry Bog (JLS, HPL, LCM, John Hay). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 28 Mar (1) Wilbur L., Carter Co (HPL, BKS), ers.

Warbler - Grosbeak: **"Brewster's" Warbler:** 30 Apr/7 May (1) Hampton Cr. Cove (LCM/Gary Wallace et al.). **Palm Warbler:** 28 Mar (1) Sycamore Shoals SP (BKS). **Blackpoll Warbler:** 10 Apr (1) Elizabethton (HPL), record early in NE Tenn.; 10 - 11 May (2) Shady Valley (JLS). **Cerulean Warbler:** 14 May (1) Shady Valley (JWC), 3rd record there. **Swainson's Warbler:** 3 May (1) Rock Cr. Park, Unicoi Co (HPL, AW); 6 May (4) Shady Valley (BTOS). **Wilson's Warbler:** 2 May (2) Sycamore Shoals SP (HPL, AW). **Vesper Sparrow:** 6/21 May (1/2) Shady Valley (BTOS/JCW, LCM, AWJ). **Lark Sparrow:** 6 May (1) Shady Valley (BTOS), 2nd NE Tenn. record. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** 2 May (1) Sycamore Shoals SP (HPL, LCM). **White-crowned Sparrow:** 14 May (1) Shady Valley (JLS), lrs. **Bobolink:** 5 - 11 May (13 max) Shady Valley (JLS, HPL, JWC). **Rusty Blackbird:** 11 Mar (2) Orchard Bog (Ken Dubke, JLS, JWC). **Red Crossbill:** 7 May (4) Roan Mtn (KDE). **Pine Siskin:** 23 Apr/7 May (100+/750+) Roan Mtn (AJT/KDE). **Evening Grosbeak:** 23 Apr (80+) Roan Mtn (AJT).

Locations: Elizabethton - in Carter Co.; Hampton Cr. Cove - near Roan Mtn. in Carter Co; Orchard Bog - in Shady Valley, Johnson Co.; Quarry Bog - in Shady Valley, Johnson Co.; Roan Mtn - in Carter Co.; Sycamore Shoals SP - in Carter Co.; Shady Valley - in Johnson Co.; S. Holston L. - in Sullivan Co.

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